

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 40 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the power with which a first station transmits signals to a plurality of second stations, comprising:

receiving from each of the plurality of second stations at the first station a power control command having a given value;

determining received values of said received power control commands;

combining the determined received values of the received power control commands from each of the second stations to generate a combined value;

comparing the determined received values with a first threshold value, determining a given value for each received power control command based on the comparison, and selecting one of the determined given values in accordance with a predetermined criterion; and

controlling the power at which the first station transmits signals based on the combined value from combining determined received values and the selected determined given value from comparing the determined received values.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the given value of each power control command comprises either a first value indicating that the power should be increased or a second value indicating that the power should be decreased.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said predetermined criteria is to select the second value if at least one of said determined given values is the second value, and to select the first value if all of the determined given values are the first value.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first threshold value is between said first and second values.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first threshold value is closer to one of the first and second values than to the other.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein first threshold value is closer to the second value than to the first value.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first value is +1 and the second value is -1.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the threshold value is in the range -0.6 to 0.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the threshold value is in the range -0.25 and -0.03.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising receiving at each of the second stations a signal from said first station, determining the strength of the received signal from the first station and determining from the strength of the received signal the given value for the power control command to be transmitted to the first station.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the one of the combined value and the selected value which is closer to a predetermined one of said first and second given values is selected.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said predetermined one of said values is the second value.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

summing a selected one of the determined received values of the power control commands currently received from the second stations and a selected one of the determined received values of the power control commands previously received from the second stations;

comparing the summed value with a third threshold value;

outputting a default value if the summed value exceeds the third threshold value, and otherwise outputting the selected one of the determined received values of the power control commands current received from the second stations; and

controlling the power which the mobile station transmits on the basis of the output of outputting a default value.

20-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A device for a first station which in use transmits signals to a plurality of second stations, said device comprising:

means for determining received values of power control command received from said plurality of second stations, each power control command having a given value;

means for combining the determined received values of said received power control command from each of the second stations to generate a combined value; means for comparing the determined received values with a first threshold value, determining a given value for each received power control command based on the comparison, and selecting one of the determined given values in accordance with a predetermined criterion; and

means for controlling the power with which the first station transmits to the second stations based on said combined value and the selected determined given value.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A first station which in use transmits signals to a plurality of second stations, said first station comprising:

means for receiving power control commands from said plurality of ~~second~~ second stations; and

a device according to claim 38.

41-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the given value of each power control command comprises either a first value indicating that the power should be increased or a second value indicating that the power should be decreased, and

wherein if the selected determined given value is the second value, the controlling means decreases the power with which the first station transmits regardless of the combined value, and

if the selected determined given value is the first value and the combined value exceeds a second threshold value, the controlling means increases the power with which the first station transmits, and

if the selected determined given value of the first value and the combined value is below the second threshold value, the controlling means decrease the power with which the first station transmits.

48. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the given value of each power control command comprises either a first value indicating that the power should be increased or a second value indicating that the power should be decreased, and

if the selected given value is the second value, the power with which the first station transmits is decreased regardless of the combined value, and

if the selected determined given value is the first value and the combined value exceeds a second threshold value, the power with which the first station transmits is increased, and

if the selected determined given value is the first value and the combined value is below the second threshold value, the power with which the first station transmits is decreased.

49. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second stations are base stations.

50. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first station is a mobile station.

51. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the first station is a mobile station.

52. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the second stations are base stations.

53. (Previously Presented) A device for a first station which in use transmits signals to a plurality of second stations, said device is configured to:

determine received values of power control command received from said plurality of second stations, each power control command having a given value;

combine the determined received values of said received power control command from each of the second stations to generate a combined value;

compare the determined received values with a first threshold value, determine a given value for each received power control command based on the comparison, and select one of the determined given values in accordance with a predetermined criterion; and

control the power with which the first station transmits to the second stations based on said combined value and the selected determined given value.